

Message Text

SECRET

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11

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SUBJECT: KEKKONEN PLAN

REF (A) HELSINKI 2383; (B) OSLO 5199; (C) COPENHAGEN 3348;

(D) OSLO 5256

1. SWEDISH OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED HAVE EXPRESSED LITTLE CONCERN OVER OR EVEN INTEREST IN REPORTED FINNISH EFFORTS TO REVIVE KEKKONEN PLAN. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER RAISED WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DISARMAMENT DIVISION (ENGFELT) REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISZR ANDERSSON IN HELSINKI EXPRESSING READINESS TO "DISCUSS MATTER WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES" (REF A), ENGFELT COMMENTED THAT GOS IS OF COURSE "ALWAYS READ TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS" BUT COULD FORESEE NO LIKELIHOOD THAT SWEDEN WOULD SUPPORT KEKKONEN PLAN PROPOSALS AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED. CONTINUING, ENGFELT SAID GOS CONSIDERED KEKKONEN PLAN OF ATOMIC FREE ZONE LIMITED O SCANDINAVIA "POINTLESS,

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WHEN THERE IS HUGE STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS AROUND (IN USSR

AND CONTINENT) WHICH WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED." AS IN THE CASE OF NORWEGIANS (REF A), SWEDES BELIEVE THAT TO HAVE ANY MEANING, PLAN WOULD HAVE TO ENCOMPASS USSR AND CENTRAL EUROPE AS WELL. ENGFELT ADDED THAT GOS WILL SUPPORT FINNISH PROPOSAL AT UNGA FOR STUDY OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES THROUGH CCD, WHICH QEDS REGARD AS DISTINCT FROM KEKKONEN PLAN, AND IN LINE WITH SWEDISH EFFORT TO SEEK DISARMAMENT THROUGH UN FORA IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA.

2. THE SWEDISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP COOLNESS TOWARDS KEKKONEN PLAN IS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED THAN THAT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. LT. GEN. ERIC ALMGREN, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF SWEDISH ARMY, TOLD ARMA IN A RECENT CONVERSATION THAT "SWEDEN HAS NO INTEREST IN THE KEKKONEN PLAN," ADDING THAT "WE HAD NO INTEREST IN THE PLAN WHEN IT WAS FIRST PROPOSED AND WE HAVE NO INTEREST TODAY."

3. THE ONLY BACKING IN SWEDEN FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE KEKKONEN PLAN HAS COME FROM THE COMMUNIST LEFT. WHILE MOST NON-COMMUNIST PAPERS HAVE MADE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO THE FINNISH PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO PUSH THE PROPOSAL (OR IGNORED THE SUBJECT ENTIRELY), THE COMMUNIST QUICKLY IN A RECENT EDITORIAL NOV. 27 URGED THAT SWEDEN "MAKE AN ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE REALIZATION OF KEKKONEN'S PLAN."

4. IN PAST DISCUSSION OF FINLAND WITH EMBASSY STAFF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE MADE THE POINT THAT FINLAND SOMETIMES ASSUMES A PUBLIC POSTURE ON AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE SOVIETS OF FINLAND'S OVERRIDING DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH HER SUPERPOWER NEIGHBOR. THERE APPEARS TO BE A TENDENCY AMONG AT LEAST SOME OF THESE OFFICIALS TO ASSUME THAT THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE CURRENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN FINLAND FOLLOWING PRESIDENT PODGORNÝ'S "OFFER" OCTOBER 15 FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO "GUARANTEE" A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE. IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE REVIVAL OF TYPLAN IS INDEED SIMPLY AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE FINNS TO WIN POINTS WITH MOSCOW, MANY SWEDISH OFFICIALS SEE IT AS SUCH. BY THE SAME TOKEN, RECOGNIZING THIS FINNISH NEED, THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO REJECT IT OUT OF
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HAND LEST MATTERS BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE FINNS.

5. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN SWEDISH PRESS OF POSSIBILITY OF SWEDEN ACQUIRING MINI-NUKES, AS STATED BY VIBE TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN OSLO (REF D). SINCE SWEDEN MADE BASIC POLICY DECISION NOT TO GO NUCLEAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL EFFORT IN POLITICAL ARENA TO REOPEN QUESTION.

6. IN SUM, WHILE SWEDISH OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT TO REJECT
CATEGORICALLY AND PUBLICLY FINNISH PROPOSALS FOR REVIVING
KEKKONEN PLAN, THERE IS LITTLE SUPPORT WITHIN GOS FOCPLAN
AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED (I.E. LIMITED TO SCANDINAVIA)
SINCE IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT AFFECT NUCLEAR ARSENALS IN
SOVIET UNION AND CENTRAL EUROPE. STRAUZ-HUPE

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